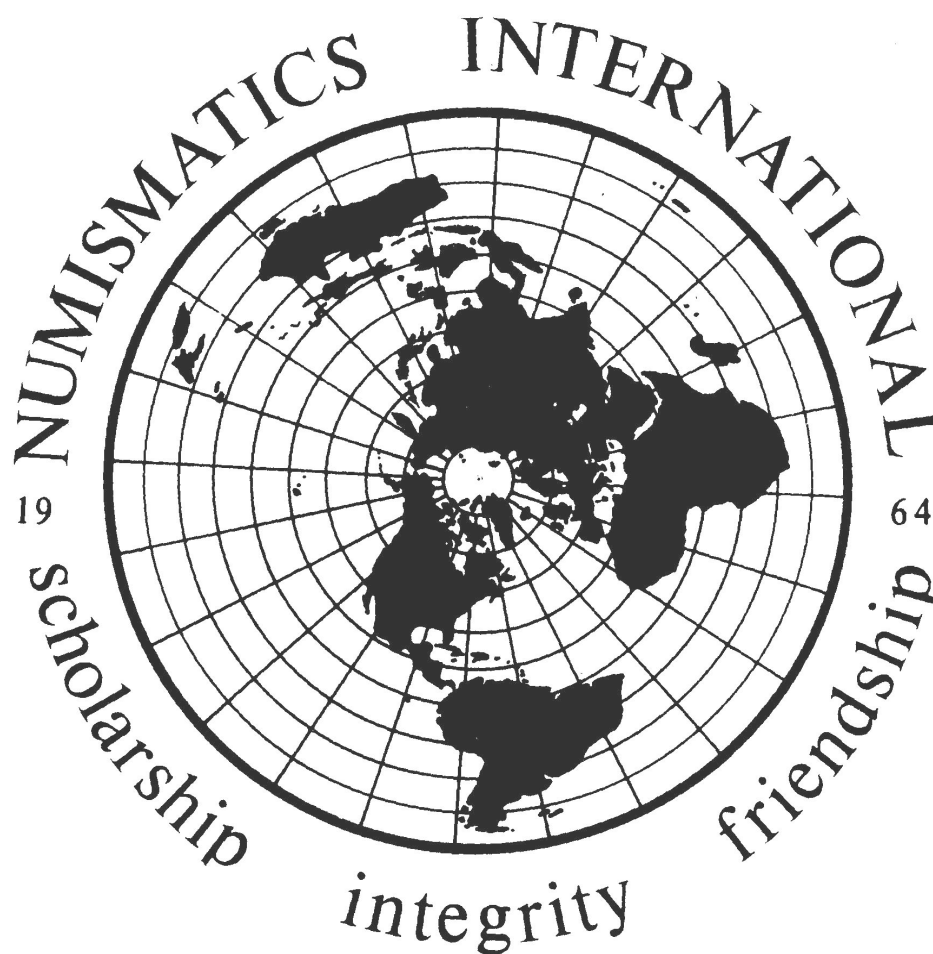


NI Bulletin

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Numismatics International is a non-profit educational organization. Its Objectives are: to encourage and promote the science of numismatics by specializing in areas and nations other than the United States of America; to cultivate fraternal relations among collectors and numismatic students; to encourage and assist new collectors; to foster the interest of youth in numismatics; to stimulate and advance affiliations among collectors and kindred organizations; and to acquire, share, and disseminate knowledge.

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This edition offers some interesting articles from NI members and we welcome guest author William Camacho of Bolivia with an introduction to Bolivian Tokens. I especially am intrigued by the Elsen article on a Byzantine standard weight (a "standard" weight is an authoritative weight used to verify field weights, so the artifact illustrated is an official government weight as its design suggests). I hope that you read and enjoy all the articles and book reviews.

Summer is upon us in the northern hemisphere and the American Numismatic Society holds its annual World's Fair of Money in Chicago this August. If you attend please do come to the NI General Meeting on Saturday.

In recent months the attorney general of the state of Minnesota has sued at least two coin dealers for violation of consumer protection laws, e.g., not paying for goods and/or not delivering goods. In response to these lawsuits and other concerns the MN legislature has passed new laws overseeing coin dealers and others who deal in precious metals. This is a concern for legitimate coins dealers doing business in MN due to uncertainty of interpretation of the law. Reference CHAPTER 120--H.F.No. 157 at: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/>.

Herman Blanton

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What Makes an Ugly Cob Beautiful?


Alan Luedeking, NI #2282



At first glance, this could easily be one of the ugliest cobs you've ever seen. Misshapen, pitted and worn, it is almost an object of pity, until we start to look at it more closely and begin to see some really extraordinary things.

First, we notice the very prominent mintmark  on the obverse, to the left of the shield. This is a key element on any cob since on many the mintmark is missing or illegible. This mintmark tells you the coin was made at the Mexico City mint. In addition, on the reverse we prominently see balls at the ends of the arms of the cross. This is another important identifier since only Mexican cobs sport this feature.



Next we notice the four-digit date in the legend of the obverse at 11 o'clock, with the all-important last two digits entirely present. This is a special feature indeed—on many, if not most, early cobs the date is either entirely off the planchet or illegible. This means that it was minted under the reign of Phillip III of Spain. All dated Mexican cobs of Philip III can be considered rare and desirable. Then, at 6 o'clock under the shield we see a crystal clear "III"—the ordinal of the king. This is a very rare feature indeed, as in most early cobs the ordinal is almost always obscured or off the planchet. This one is crisp and sharp, following the king's name (Phillippvs), enough of which is visible to make identification incontrovertible. 

Looking closer, we notice other significant details such as the initial 'D' under the mintmark. This was the mark of the Assayer whose responsibility it was to ensure that the fineness of the metal used to make the coin met the legal standard (0.9306.) To the right of the shield we discern the denomination '8' (for 8 Reales), the famous "piece of eight" or crown-sized silver coin that became a mainstay of world trade in the seventeenth century. Lastly, the design elements of the shield with its distinctive crown are clear, as is the cross with its castles and lions, albeit worn.

In short, all of the key elements that we look for on a cob are here—the mintmark, date, denomination, assayer, ruler and ordinal—and taken all together, they transform this ugly cob into a truly beautiful coin worthy of appreciation as an object of historical significance.

Tokens of Bolivia

William Camacho M.

Token usage in Bolivia commenced in the mid-1860s with the issuance of tokens in brass by the merchant house of LUIS AMPUERO (1863) in the values of 2R (2 reales), 1R and 1/2R. The city of Cochabamba had its heyday of merchant tokens in the mid-1870s. The majority of these tokens were manufactured in England and of high artistic quality in metals such as pewter, bronze and nickel. There are examples from DANIEL M QUIROGA, NICASIO DE GUMUCIO, PP LOUREIRO I CIA, GUILLERMO GAINSBORG and TORRES y HERMANO.

Before the outbreak of the War of the Pacific in 1879 between Chile and Bolivia, an immense number of vulcanized rubber (vulcanite) tokens were struck in the regions of Antofagasta, Tocopilla and Mejillones. Nitrate mining operations were established by foreign companies and they issued tokens as a means of payment to their employees; these could be exchanged for liquor, gunpowder, clothing, food and even for watering one's mule or horse. Tokens are known from the following mines as well as others: CA DE SALITRES y FCARRIL ANTOFAGASTA, KEATING y QUAET-FASLEM, JOSE VIDELA, MC y CA., OFICINA BUENA ESPERANZA, MEJILLONES DE BOLIVIA, HUANERA MEJILLONES, FABRICA DE SALITRES J.C. y CO. These tokens are cataloged in some references under Chile as these territories passed over to become Chilean after the peace treaty between these two countries.

Of vital importance were the tokens used at rubber plantations in the area known as Territory of Colonias around the end of the 1800s. The plantations known as ORTON operated, owned by Mr. Antonio Vaca Diez, and the VALPARAISO of Mr. Augusto Roca issued tokens to facilitate paying their employees who could use them to acquire a variety of items in their own company stores. Tokens of the ORTON plantation are known in the denominations of 20C, 10C and 5C, of the VALPARAISO plantation only the 20C.



Obv: ANTONIO VACA DIEZ/ ORTON/ 10 CENTAVOS Rev: FICHAS PARA EL ESTABLECIMIENTO DE ORTON/ 10 CENTAVOS 1889 [enlarged 2×]. Nickel 19.5mm, 2.7g, Rulau: Bolivia Pdo 4 for the 20 centavos (10 centavos not numbered or illustrated).

Oval shaped zinc tokens issued by rich silver mines in the Atacama Desert region, such mines as MINA CARACOLES, were used in exchange for WATER, MEAT and BREAD. These tokens served as “the money of the Atacama Desert.”



Obv: E^{ME}/PAN Rev: (inverse of obverse). Zinc “CARACOLES EMPALME” mine c. 1870s 52x34mm. Rulau: Chile Ant 43A (not illustrated).

The mining centers also benefited from the use of tokens, issuing a large quantity in various types of materials, shapes and denominations. The HUANCHACA company with its three series of issues in 1874, 1879 and the 1880s beats all the other companies in manufacture and use of tokens, followed by COROCORO which sports beautiful tokens in ebonite and copper. There also exist tokens from the mining companies COMPAÑIA MINERA HUANUNI, GARCI MENDOZA, MINAS CATAVI, MINAS SAN JOSE, LIPEZ, PORTUGALETE and ASIENITO, the latter two of which are hard to find.



**Obv: EMPRESA HUANCHACA/ DE BOLIVIA Rev: VALE EN MONEDA CORRIENTE/ CINCUENTA CENTAVOS D BOLIVIANO [enlarged 1.25×]
Greenish color Vulcanite, 38mm, 4.3g, c. 1874. Rulau: Bolivia Psi 4 (not illustrated).**

[William Camacho is a member of the *Circulo Numismatico Cochabamba* (Bolivia) coin club and has a strong interest in the tokens of his homeland. He is hunting and cataloging the tokens. In this article we listed a few selected tokens from his collection for you to peruse. If you have an interest in Bolivian tokens William would appreciate hearing from you by email: tokendude@hotmail.com —*Editor.*]

Reference:

Rulau, Russell. *Latin American Tokens, A Guide Book and Catalog 1700-1920*, 2nd edition. Iola, WI: Krause Publications, 2000.

NI

Weight and Purity of Cob Coinage in the New Kingdom of Granada

Herman Blanton, NI #LM115

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Santa Fe (de Bogotá) 1620-1756 and Cartagena (de las Indias) 1620-1635, 1655

Private mint treasurers: 1620-1749

Provisional treasurer: 1749-1753

Royal treasurer: 1753-1756

Nuevo Reino de Granada (New Kingdom of Granada) was the Spanish region in northern South America which today approximates the area of Colombia, Venezuela and Ecuador. The authorized mint at Santa Fe and its branch mint at Cartagena struck irregular hand hammered coins that we call cobs (in Spanish *macuquinas*). There are four categories of cob coins authorized and produced in Nuevo Reino. The mint in Santa Fe was authorized to produce gold and silver coins in compliance with weight and fineness laws applicable throughout the king's dominions. In addition to standard gold and silver Cartagena was authorized to make two types of special coins, *vellon-rico* (enriched-billon) and *plata-baja* (low silver).

Gold coins (*oro*) were produced throughout the entire period at 22 karat purity (916.667 fine) and weight of 68 escudos to the mark.

Silver coins (*plata*) were produced throughout the entire period at 11 dineros plus 4 grains purity (930.555 fine) and weight of 67 reales to the mark with the possible exception of cuartillos in 1755.

Enriched billon (*vellon rico*) cuartillo coins were authorized from 1620-25 for Cartagena only. The purity was one part coin-silver to four parts copper (186.111 fine) and the weight was 100 cuartillos (25 reales) to the mark.

Low silver (*plata baja*) was authorized in 1625. Due to public complaints production ceased in 1626 and the coins recalled. The purity was 247.917 fine and the weight was 25 reales to the mark in denominations of 1/4, 1/2 and 1 real. No specimens have been confirmed; however it is possible that the half-real illustrated as Figure 2 in Blanton (2007) is plata baja except that its date, 1622, precedes the plata baja authorization.

Coins	Years	Fineness	value/mark (230.1232 g)	mass
Gold	1620-1756	916.667	68 escudos	3.384g / escudo
Silver	1620-1756	930.555	67 reales	3.435g / real
Enriched billon	1620-1625	186.111	25 reales	1/4 R 2.301g
<i>Plata baja</i>	1625-1626	247.917	25 reales	1/4 R 2.301g 1/2 R 4.602g 1 R 9.205g

Table
Authorized years (not necessarily the production period)

Notes:

1. The mark (*marco*) is a standard weight coming out of the middle ages. The “weight” or mass of the mark varied considerably over time and location. Barriga (I: 30) uses 230.1232 grams as the mass of the mark and that is what is used in this paper.
2. The Catholic Monarchs Ferdinand and Isabella reorganized the coinage system in 1497. They set the weight of the gold “*excelente de la granada*” at 65.333 to the mark of pure gold but not less than 23.75 karat. They set the weight of the silver “*real*” at 67 pieces to the mark and the purity to 11 dineros and 4 grains. There are 12 dineros in the whole and each dinero has 24 grains (of purity, not weight) making 288 grains for 1000 fine silver. Eleven dineros and four grains $((11 \times 24 + 4)/288)$ is 930.555 fine (Heiss I: 323-4).
3. It seems that the gold “*escudo*” first appeared in 1535. In a decree of Charles I dated 1537 the escudo was specified at 68 pieces to mark with a fineness of 22 karat (22/24, 916.667 fine). This was for the Kingdoms of Castile (Heiss I: 325).
4. Further monetary laws were decreed but as of 1620 the escudo was still 22k with 68/mark; the real was 11 dineros and 4 grains with 67/mark.
5. In 1620 King Philip III contracted with Captain Alonso Turrillo de Yebra to build and operate a mint in Santa Fe and a branch mint “*oficina*” in Cartagena. Turrillo was authorized to strike gold and silver plus a special billon coin. This was the first authorization for gold coins to be struck in the New World. (Friede: Document 4, 52-61).
6. Gold coined at Santa Fe was to conform to current standards. *Los escudos sencillos y dobles se labrarán y fabricarán de la misma forma que se hacen y labran en las casas de moneda de estos Reinos, sin exceder en cosa alguna, excepto que se pondrá una N y R latinas, en la parte de las Armas de Castilla y León, para que se conozca se hizo en el dicho Nuevo Reino.* (Friede: Document 4, 52-61).
7. Silver coined at Santa Fe was to conform to current standards. *La moneda de la plata será, como queda referido, en la cantidad y piezas conforme a lo que quedáreis de acuerdo con los dichos presidente y Audiencia y más conviniere al bien y estado, contratación y comercio del dicho Nuevo Reino. En cuanto a la cantidad de piezas por marco y peso de piezas, guardaréis las leyes y Reales ordenanzas y declaraciones de ellas de las demás casas de moneda de estos Reinos.* (Friede: Document 4, 52-61).
8. Enriched billon was a special coin. *La moneda de vellón rico que, como queda dicho, habéis de labrar para la contratación y comercio por menor del dicho Reino, ha de ser ligada a cuatro marcos de cobre, con uno de plata, de ley de once dineros y cuatro granos, como se hace en las demás casas de moneda de estos Reinos. Cada marco hecho moneda de esta liga, ha de tener de valor veinticinco reales, y cada real cuatro piezas, y todo el marco, cien piezas, y cada cuartillo, cuarenta y ocho granos de peso.* (Friede: Document 4, 52-61).

9. Plata baja (low silver). No coins were produced in the years 1623-24 while Turrillo was in Spain dealing with mint matters. It was decided to stop making the enriched billon cuartillo coins and begin making coins with a little more silver in them. These new coins called “plata baja” were authorized by royal decree dated 10 March 1625 and ended by decree of 24 August 1626 (which ordered the plata baja to be recalled and melted down). They were to be produced in 1/4, 1/2 and 1 real denominations at the rate of 25 reales to the mark. The plata baja was 10 parts of “pure silver” of full legal fineness of 2380 maravedis mixed with 30 parts of copper. According to the intention of the decree the plata baja was 25% silver (10 parts pure silver/ 30 parts copper) but with the technical limit of silver refining recognized at 2380/2400 the fineness specified was $(10 \cdot (2380/2400) + 30)/40 = 247.917$ fine. ...*se labrasen quartillos medios Reales y reales cencillos de plata baja ligando diez onzas de plata fina de toda ley de dos mill y trescientos y ochenta maravedís con treinta de cobre y que esta mescla que havía de tener quarta parte de plata de toda ley y tres de cobre...cada marco de peso de esta ley veinte y cinco reales cencillos cinquenta medios y cien quartillos...* (Barriga I: Document Number 7, 173-78). The plata baja was authorized for Santa Fe and Cartagena, but since the authorization was revoked in 1626, before the Santa Fe mint opened in 1627, all pieces (except trial strikes made in Spain) must have been produced in Cartagena (Friede: Document 72, 238-40).
10. King Philip V made monetary changes and codified these in Royal decrees issued in 1728 (*Autos Acordados*, lib. V, tit. XXI, autos LIX, LX y LXI, Heiss I: 390-97). The most well known of these changes was the requirement to mechanize the mints in Spain and in the Indies ... *Todas de las monedas de plata, que se labraren en las casa de estos mis Reinos, i de los de Indias, serán acuñados en ingenios, ó molinos de agua, ú de sangre, i de figura circular con un cordoncillo, o laurel al canto...* Other changes included reducing the silver purity from 11 dineros and 4 grains (930.555) to 11 dineros (916.667) and lower the weight from 67 to 68 reales to the mark. These decrees were not implemented at Santa Fe due to contractual rights of the mint owners. The mint continued to operate as it had from the beginning. The mint continued cob production according to specifications in place before the decrees of 1728. *En la de Santa Fe, las ordenanzas no habían podido incorporarse, por los contratos, que por juro de heredad, venían disfrutando los Tesoreros Particulares....* (Barriga II: 9). The end of the private mint began in 1748 after gold merchants complained to Viceroy Sebastián de Eslava y Lazaga about irregularities at the mint (Barriga I: 129). Manuel de Porras was appointed provisional treasurer and oversaw the mint from 30 January 1749 until 30 July 1753, after which the Crown administered the mint for its own account (Barriga I: 133-36). The royal mint continued production of cobs until the mill mint was operational in 1756; both cob and milled coins were produced in 1756.
11. Gold and silver coin denominations produced were gold: 1, 2, 4 & 8 escudos and in silver: 1/4 real (cuartillo), 1/2 real (medio), 1, 2, 4 & 8 reales.
12. The first gold cobs produced for the royal account was on 10 September 1753 (Barriga II: document 35, 211-13).
13. No silver cobs were produced under Royal administration except the 1/4 real in 1755 (Barriga II: document 37, 214-15). Despite discrepancies in Barriga

concerning the purity of silver post 1728 we tentatively hold that these were at 11 dineros (916.667 fine) and weight of 67 reales to the mark (268 pieces per mark). Document 37 concerning the 1755 cuartillos specifically says that the fineness was 11 dineros (...enzaidos con una zertificación en que declara estar arreglada a la ley de onze dineros y que por tal los daba para que corra y tenga el uso permitido). According to document 39 (Barriga II: 219-221) concerning the first milled silver coins of both eight reales and cuartillos the purity is 11 dineros. However, Barriga's table (II: 11) shows all silver denominations from cuartillo to eight reales at 11 dineros and 4 grains. In volume III Barriga has summary production tables; at the beginning of the table for silver he specifically says that the weight of silver cobs was 67 to the mark and did not change to 68 until milled coins were produced. *La talla de plata, según Reales Cédulas, fue para la moneda batida en Santa Fe de 67 reales por marco. Se usó durante toda la época de los Tesoreros Particulares, y solamente cuando la Casa de Moneda pasó a manos del Rey, en la moneda de cordoncillo, se comenzó a emplear la de 68 reales por marco, o sea \$ 8, 4 rs. Esta sobrevaluación en peso y en ley, tenía por objeto, mantener en circulación la buena plata con la moneda de oro de 22 quilates* (Barriga III: 530). At 67 reales to the mark a cuartillo weighs 0.859g, at 68/mark 0.846g. The cuartillo illustrated in *Gaceta Numismática* 170/171 (Blanton 2008: 35) weighs 0.87g.

14. The Crown closed the Cartagena facility in 1635 but an illegal mint opened in 1655 and briefly operated for some months (Proctor and Blanton).
15. As mentioned in notes 10 & 13 the matter of weight and fineness of silver production post 1728 is unsettled. Regardless of whether the private owners mechanized the mint or not it seems that they should have followed the other parts of the law. Until additional material comes to light that clarifies this I follow Barriga who shows 930.555 for silver purity and 67 reales to the mark except for the year 1755.

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NI

Byzantine Standard Weight, Count of Imperial Largesse

Jean Elsen & ses Fils, NI #2696

Translated by Robert Ronus, NI #LM139



Cylindrical 2 pound standard weight in bronze, bearing the effigy of the emperor, crowned with a halo, above the letters Λ (with an arrow, for pound) and Β (the figure 2). On the edge, engraved inscription + ΕΠΙ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΕΝΔΟΞΟΤΟΥ ΚΟΜΙΤΟΥ ΤΩΝ ΘΕΙΩΝ ΛΑΡΓΙΤΙΩΝΩΝ. 75 x 20 mm. 648 g. Unpublished and unique. An exceptional object of great historical interest.

The inscription on the edge (*epi Megalou tou endoxotatou komitis ton theion largitionon*) means "under Megas the very glorious count of divine (or sacred) largesse." Created under Constantine, the office of the count of sacred largesse was one of the most important ministries of the fiscal administration of the empire, being notably responsible for the striking of coins. Its importance declined starting with the reign of Anastasius, its duties being taken over by other dignitaries. The last count of sacred largesse is cited in the reign of Phocas. Megas (or Magnus) came from Syria where he held high office in the imperial administration. He was *commerciaire* of Antioch and curator of the divine house in Pamphylia and then in Syria. Favoured by Justinian II and by Tiberius, he would have exercised the functions of *comes sacrarum largitionum* from 566 to 573 and would have died before 582 (Morrison, *Sceaux byzantins inédits de la collection Seyrig, in Comptes rendus de l'Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres*, 1986, p. 428-429). The inscription concerning its weight is very comparable to that of a bronze weight of another count of sacred largesse, called Loulianos, bearing the effigies of Justinian II and Sophia (D. Feissel, "Le préfet de Constantinople, les poids étalons et l'estampillage de l'argenterie," in *RN* (1986), p. 134, n. 88).

Jean Elsen & ses Fils sale 116, 2013-03-16, lot 770.

NI

Taler, Gulden or Copy?
An Archbishop of Mainz Numismatic Mystery
Robert Ronus, NI #LM139



(Enlarged 1.25×)

Last year I bought what I thought was a nice example of a Broad Taler of Damian Hartard von der Leyen, Archbishop of Mainz (and Bishop of Worms) from 1675-78. Here is the description:

Obv.: 7 dots DAMIAN.HARTARD:D:G:ARCHIEPVS:MOGVNTINVS: Bust rt.
Rev.: S.R.I.P.GERM:ARCHICAN & PRIN:EL:EPS.WOR:1676 M crossed
Zainhaken F (mintmark of Mathias Fischer, mintmaster in Mainz ,1652-82) Helmeted
quartered arms of Mainz (wheel) and Worms (key with billets), with an escutcheon
with the von der Leyen family arms (post).

In every way this appeared to be Dav. 5562. However, although the diameter of 43mm was like many broad talers, the weight was only 22.44g, the weight of a gulden rather than the typical Taler weight of 28-29g.

Davenport's book on Gulden has six 60 Kreuzer types issued by Archbishop Damian. None were the same as my coin. I think the most exciting thing in numismatics is finding an unpublished coin and I thought I had one.

The dealer from whom I purchased the coin suggested it might be a Taler because of its silver content. Dr. Tom Pesacreta, of the University of Louisiana, kindly agreed to do a spectrographic analysis of the coin. He reported that to his great surprise it was 100 % silver.

In 1667 a monetary agreement was made at the Abbey of Zinna between Saxony, Brandenburg, and Brunswick-Lüneburg to help make the minting of small coins more economical than could be done under the old Augsburg ordinances. The Taler was reduced in weight to 28.1g but retaining the same 889.0 fineness. There was also a *Rechnungstaler* (or *Kuranttaler*) containing 22.272g of silver, which would fit my coin. Could this have something to do with my coin? But Mainz was never a party to the Zinna agreement.

Trying to find an answer to all this, I sought information from the experts at the Germany's biggest coin cabinet, the Münzkabinett of the State Museums in Berlin. I

was advised that their collection included the Mainz Taler, with a diameter of 44.3 mm and a normal weight of 28.45 g. They had never come across a type in pure silver but it would have a weight of about 26 g, much heavier than my copy. They thought my copy was a later restrike by a bank.

What a disappointing ending! I would still like to know who struck it and why. In the meantime the dealer who sold it to me has taken it back.

References:

Davenport, John S.: *German Church and City Talers, 1600-1700* (Galesburg, Illinois 1975).

Davenport, John S.: *Silver Gulden 1559-1763* (Numismatischer Verlag P.N. Schulten, Frankfurt am Main, 1982).



NI Educational Programs

Numismatics International's General Meeting

ANA World's Fair of Money, Chicago, Aug. 13-17, 2013
Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, Rosemont, IL

Moderator Howard Daniel will lead a general meeting of Numismatics International at the 2013 ANA World's Fair of Money. The meeting will be Saturday, August 17th from (Noon) 12:00-1:00 P.M. in room 44. During the session Howard will present on the topic "Early Lao Ingots."

If you attend the ANA show please plan to join us for the general meeting and educational event. The entire ANA schedule is available at:

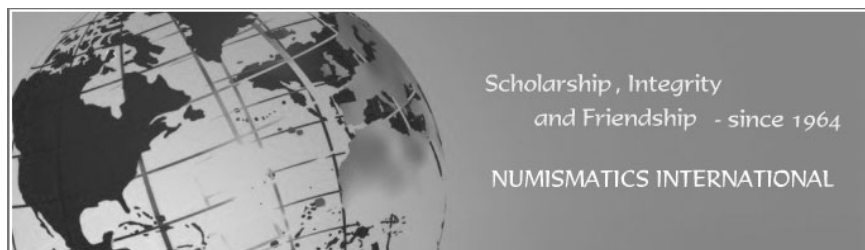
<http://www.worldsfairofmoney.com/schedule.aspx>



Membership Report

The following person has applied for membership. Unless objections in writing are received by September 1, 2013 the membership is effective that day.

2759 Keith Morgan, 2041 Brabant Dr., Plano, TX. 75025.



Coins Countermarked with Political Messages and Related Pieces

Gregory G. Brunk, NI #749

(Continued from May /June 2013 *NI Bulletin*)

Catalog: Part U (United States)

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— UNITED STATES —

In tracing the histories of the American merchants who countermarked coins, the writer discovered that a number also had been politicians, and a few had been political advocates like Britain's Thomas Spence. (Such people will be mentioned in the next edition of *Merchant and Privately Countermarked Coins*). One of the activists was Hermann Wettstein of Harvard, Illinois, a German immigrant who lectured on metaphysics. His coins were made from the "backstamp" he used to mark items sold in his jewelry store, and a small lot of silverware with the stamp recently appeared at auction.

A great deal of information about Wettstein can be found on the Internet using Google's "Books" option. The 1880 *Illinois State Gazetteer* listed "H. Wettstein, watches, clocks, and jewelry, Harvard, Ill." and his bibliography appears in Samuel Putnam's *400 Years of Free Thought* (1894: 823). Hermann and his brother Otto were two of the leading proponents of the Free Thought Movement and today would be called "free thinkers." They believed decisions should be made on the basis of science, logic and reasoning, rather than tradition, authority or dogma. Otto edited *Free Thought Magazine*, while Hermann was Treasurer of the American Secular Union and a well known writer and lecturer. Most of his countermarks are found on US silver coins, but a few Canadian silver coins also are stamped. Many of the coins would have been given out in change at his jewelry store. Others could have been distributed at the time of his lectures as souvenirs.

H. WETTSTEIN

Three dozen coins are known, the latest dated 1877



H. WETTSTEIN on a US Quarter

(Image enlarged 1.5×)

The next piece refers to the politics of some big city, but Ulrich is not listed in the massive PoliticalGraveyard.com data base of American political candidates and office holders, which is the obvious first source to consult. But Martin Ulrich was identified using the Google "Books" option by using the search term "28th Ward."

He was noted in the 1871 *Journal of the Common Council of the City of Philadelphia* as Supervisor of the 28th ward.

BLACKEST / REPUBLICAN / 28TH WARD / M. ULRICK / SUPERVISOR

Silver Dollar: 1870

GEORGE WASHINGTON

Quite a few Washington countermarks are known, but many of them seem to be fantasies or they were made from legitimate stamps that had been cut for other purposes.

Washington Bust Punch

This coin was countermarked from a punch that was used to make working dies for Washington funeral medals. That is why the countermark is incuse. It is either a contemporary test piece or was made later from an old stamp.

Washington Bust (Incuse)

Large Cent: 1803



Large Cent
(Image enlarged 1.5×)

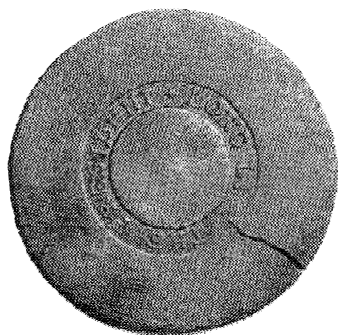
Button Dies

Large suit buttons commemorating important events were used on many 19th century military uniforms and also sold to the general public. There are thirty types of Washington buttons, which were issued from 1789 to 1793 to commemorate his inauguration and first term in office (Rulau-Fuld 1999).

An example of such a button die is stamped on counterfeit 1792 silver plated four reales (Rulau-Fuld 1999: 244). Counterfeits of Spanish-American silver coins were common in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, and were made in large numbers in such places as Birmingham, England. The same stamp is known on a copper disk, which also is stamped with a floral design. Both pieces may be test strikes or sports by a button maker.

LONG LIVE THE PRESIDENT * in circular ring

Counterfeit Four Reales: 1792



Counterfeit Four Reales



28 mm Copper Disk

A number of what seem to be countermarks from other button dies appear on coins. *Most are from fantasy dies* that imitate the Washington buttons that are highly valued by button collectors. They seem to have been stamped on coins as an afterthought when the fakers realized that such fantasies could also be sold to coin collectors.

The GW Script in Ring countermarks probably are this sort of fantasy. George Fuld noted the 1794 eight reales in the November 1962 *TAMS Journal*. It probably is a fantasy because the countermark is uncirculated, but since none of the other pieces has been examined, that is not certain. Presumably the GW portion was made using a separate stamp, and GW is the same on both series, but that also is not certain.

LONG LIVE THE PRESIDENT * in circular ring around a separate, incuse countermark G W (in script)

Eight Reales: 1794

Also reported, but not verified on Connecticut, New Jersey and Vermont Cents.



Eight Reales

Thirteen Stars and Three Floral Springs in circular ring around a separate, incuse countermark G W (in script)

Reportedly exists on Connecticut and Vermont cents, a 1790 British Shilling, and a planchet, but no examples have been illustrated.

Discarded Washington Medal Dies

When the inventories of 19th century diesinkers were liquidated after they went out of business, their old dies often were sold as scrap. Some of them eventually appeared in numismatic auctions, and the writer once had a number of trade token dies that he used as bookends.

Some spiffy dies were used to countermark coins, but this was impossible to do properly unless one had access to a hydraulic or a screw press. Nevertheless, the people who bought such dies sometimes tried to stamp a few coins by hitting the butt end of a large die with a hammer before giving up. A few of these badly stamped coins have appeared at auction. Perhaps a dozen different Washington dies were used, but usually only one or two countermarked coins exist from any die. Many of them are so poorly struck that they are hard to photograph or even describe.

This 1896-O silver dollar is one of the best struck examples of this sort of countermarked coin. It must have been made using a powerful press to get this good an impression. The obverse is stamped with a die portraying George Washington surrounded by stars, while the reverse reads SEAL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK



Silver Dollar

Pseudo-Hallmarks

A number of very small countermarks have been attributed as busts of Washington, Lafayette, George III, Napoleon, Martha Washington and other historically important people. Indeed, the *same* bust often is attributed differently each time it is auctioned! Most of these pieces seem to be from the 19th century, but they did not have an explicitly political purpose.



Large Cent

Three pseudo-hallmarks on a Large Cent

Many of them were made using pseudo-hallmarks. Such stamps were applied to silverware in imitation of British hallmarks to make it appear items were of high quality. While probably not having an explicit political purpose, two examples from the same stamp have been noted. They seem to be from the 1830s. Unlike the “Very Small Washington Bust” pieces, these two coins saw extensive circulation after having been stamped. One possibility is they were given away by a jeweler in change.

Bust of George Washington Right in Depressed Oval?

Quarter: 1834

Half Dollar: 1818



Half Dollar (1.5×)



Quarter (1.5×)

Eight Escudos (not illustrated)

Very Small Washington Bust

These exceedingly small countermarks are only 5 mm in diameter. There appear to be two varieties, one circular and the other oval. But this could be an optical illusion caused by some pieces not being stamped as deeply as others or being stamped at an angle. None of the examples that have been illustrated show any wear to the countermark, although most of the coins were well worn before being stamped.

As with so many oddly countermarked coins, these pieces come with a story. It was claimed they were issued for the visit of Lafayette to the US in 1824, but they do not have the wear pattern of the genuine Lafayette issues that will be catalogued later. It seems more likely these pieces were struck during the latter part of the 19th century when engravers made small medals with microscopic inscriptions of such things as the Lord's Prayer in order to advertise their skills.

It may be possible for a reader to identify the maker by searching 19th century advertisements. Indeed, that is how the maker of the legitimate 1824 Lafayette and Washington countermarks was identified. This would not be an impossible task since all the issues of thousands of American and world newspapers are now available on the Internet from such sources as library websites and Newspaperarchive.com.

GEORGE WASHINGTON around Washington's Bust

English Penny: UK

English Shilling: 1818

Irish Halfpenny: 1766

Dime: 1820 (2), 1721

Quarter: 1818

Two Reales: 1789, 1794



English Shilling (1.5×)



Dime (1.5×)



Two Reales (1.5×)

GW as a Hallmark-Type Stamp

The origin of this countermark is uncertain. At one time it was claimed the pieces were issued for the visit of Lafayette to the United States in 1824, but if the report of a countermarked 1829 large cent is accurate, that cannot be the case. Nor is the wear pattern of these coins similar to the legitimate issues of the 1824 Lafayette visit. These GW pieces may be 19th century fantasies that were made for sale to collectors of the day, and since they apparently were known to Baker (1885), they may have been issued during the early 1880s when the making of fantasy countermarked coins was becoming common. Rulau and Fuld (1999: 246) note this stamp sometimes is found with a small bust of Lafayette, which they thought is also a fantasy, but the writer has not seen an example of that Lafayette bust.

None of the dozen GW countermarked coins the writer has examined photographically show any wear after stamping. That is typical of such fantasy countermarked coins as the numerous West Indies pieces that were made in the late

19th and early 20th centuries. To quote Stack's Auction of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection (May 11, 2004, lot 199) regarding such a GW countermarked piece, it is "Undoubtedly, a fantasy."

The only explanation for their legitimacy the writer can devise is the pieces might have been issued for such a celebration as the US Centennial in 1876. Indeed, J. B. Gaunt Ltd. of Birmingham, England struck replica Washington brass buttons for the 1889 centennial of his inauguration (Coin Galleries, July 21, 2004, lot 985). If this sort of commemorative explanation is correct, some reader probably can find documentary evidence about when they were issued by searching the internet for contemporary references. Otherwise, they probably should be dismissed as fantasies. (One of the two reales appears to have a deep gouge through the stamp as if it circulated after stamping, but a close inspection indicates the stamp was place over the gouge).

GW in Rectangle

Georgius Triumpho Token: 1783 (2)

Vermont Cent: 1786

Large Cent: 1804, 1829

English Shilling: 1679

Half Real: 1791, 1807

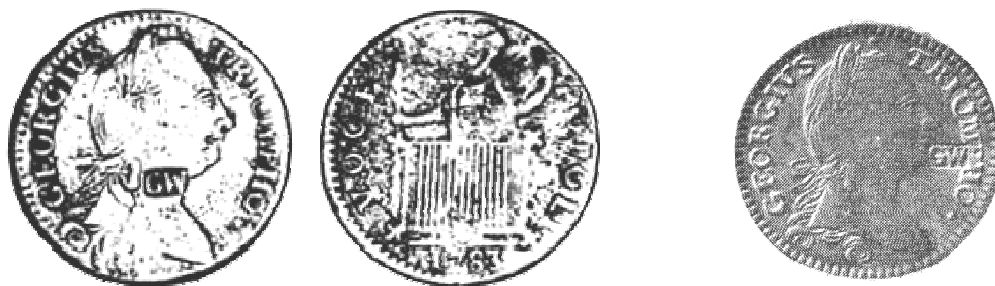
Real: 1744, 1762, 1765, 1791, UK

Two Reales: 1776, 1780, 1792

Dime: UK

Quarter: 1818

Silver Dollar: 1802



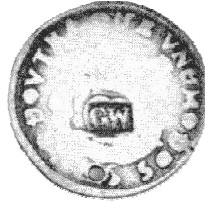
Two different 1783 Georgius Triumpho Tokens with the GW countermark



Two Reales



Vermont Cent



Two Different One Real Coins



Silver Dollar

Bashlow's Fantasies

These attractive pieces were made by Robert Bashlow in the 1950s (Rulau and Fuld 1999: 247). A number of his stamps appear on the then inexpensive 1797 English Cartwheel Penny. As is true of many older fantasies, one or two expensive coins were stamped to convince collectors the stamp was genuine since “no one would be stupid enough to destroy a rare coin by mutilation.” In this case, a 1790-NR eight escudos gold coin was stamped by Bashlow. Such a ploy often worked, and by sacrificing a few rare coins a fantasy maker was able to get more money for his countermarked coins until so many of them appeared that it became obvious that they were fantasies.

The stamp that was used to countermark these coins has considerable artistic merit, which suggests it had been meant as a medal die. Bashlow also is responsible for the often seen copies of Confederate cents, which were made for the Centennial of the Civil War.

GEORGE WASHINGTON / Washington's Bust Right

English Cartwheel Penny: 1797 (7)

English Cartwheel Twopence: 1797

Irish Devon Mines Penny Token: 1811

Gold Eight Escudos: 1790-NR



Cartwheel Penny



Eight Escudos

References:

Baker, William S. 1885. *Medallic Portraits of Washington*. Philadelphia.

Hallenbeck, Kenneth L. 1964. "Hallmarks on US Large Cents," *TAMS Journal* 1964: 41-43.

Rulau, Russell, and George Fuld. 1999. *Medallic Portraits of Washington*. Iola.

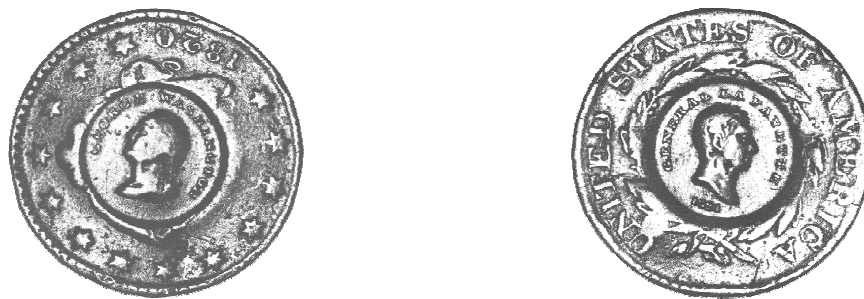
VISIT OF THE MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

Lafayette was commissioned a major general in the Continental Army in 1777 and fought with distinction in a number of engagements. After returning to France, he became Commander of the National Guard and Vice President of the Estates General in the late 1780s, shortly before the storming of the Bastille. In 1791 the radicals offered to make him President of France if he would surrender King Louis XVI for execution. Lafayette declined, and as the level of violence increased, he tried to flee to the United States through the Netherlands, but was captured by Austrian forces, that then controlled part of the Low Countries, and was imprisoned for the next five years.

After the American purchase of the Louisiana Territory from France in 1803, President Jefferson offered the territorial governorship to Lafayette, but he also declined that appointment. In his later life Lafayette was active in the July Revolution of 1830, which deposed Charles X. The interim French government again offered him the reigns of power, and although he declined in favor of Louis Philippe, Lafayette did accept command of the French National Guard.

Lafayette was the first person given honorary American citizenship. He was invited to tour the United States by President James Monroe as part of the American Semi-Centennial celebration. Lafayette arrived on August 15, 1824, for an extended visit that continued into 1825. This 1820 large cent is typical of the condition of most

specimens. The coin—which was almost new when stamped—shows considerable wear, as do the countermarked busts. There also are dings on the busts, indicating the coin was carried as a pocket piece.



Large Cent

Bowers (1999) quotes a number of contemporary accounts of Lafayette's trip, but until a few years ago the origins of the coins had been lost in the mists of time. Frank Duffield—who was the editor of *The Numismatist* in the early 20th century—offered his readers all the information then known about the pieces in “A Trial List of the Countermarked Modern of the World,” which ran from 1919 to 1922. As is typical with so much that has been written about political countermarks, some of his comments were wildly incorrect.

One of the most interesting stamps found on United States coins is that of the bust of Washington on one side and the bust of Lafayette on the other side. These pieces are not numerous, and bring good prices when offered for sale. The occasion for the stamping was Lafayette's visit to this country in 1824, but where and when the stamping was done has not been satisfactorily determined. The version most generally accepted is contained in a letter received some time ago from one of our correspondents, as follows:

“When you come to the United States section of your article on countermarked coins, play up with a good story regarding the Washington and Lafayette heads countermarked on various coins. There are different stories regarding this stamp, all of which have been questioned as to correctness. The story most generally told is that while Lafayette was being entertained at the mint during his visit to the United States about 1824, in compliment to Lafayette, each of his party was privileged to offer a coin on which the stamp was made from punches that had been prepared especially for the purpose. I have a United States half dollar with a very good stamp of Lafayette's head.”

Another story is to the effect that during a procession in honor of Lafayette, coins bearing the stamps were thrown from one of the carriages to the crowds lining the streets through which the procession passed.

In fact, these countermarked coins were stamped using medal dies that Baker (1885) thought had been cut by Charles Cushing Wright. Indeed, two years after Lafayette's visit, Wright had cut the very well executed dies for the Erie Canal medal, and during the 1850s made the first dies for the \$50 California gold slugs of Augustus Humbert.

Only a few years ago was it discovered the pieces had been issued by someone else. Joseph Lewis advertised them in the September 20, 1824, *Philadelphia National Gazette*, where Lewis noted he already had sold 2,000 medals in gold and silver (Bowers 2001).

Coin dies are aligned so if a coin is flipped vertically the reverse will be upright. Medal dies are aligned so if a medal is used as a badge, both sides will be aligned correctly. In other words, you have to flip a medal horizontally. Most of these countermarks have a medal die alignment, and the reverse die is upside down relative to the coin on which it is stamped. In turn, the pieces could be worn as badges if a hole was drilled in them. Doing so would result in both Washington and Lafayette's bust being upright.



A Worn Example of the Medal (Between the size of a Half-Dime and a Dime)

An examination of a number of these countermarked coins indicates there is a tendency for the Washington die to be on the obverse and to be positioned so it is roughly in the same alignment as the head of liberty. While most of the coins were stamped from the pair of Lewis dies using a coin press, a few pieces only are stamped with the bust of Lafayette. This 1823 dime, for example, was holed and then used as a badge, and both the countermark and the coin show considerable wear. Since only the Lafayette die was used to make this piece, the Washington die apparently shattered.



Dime (Enlarged 1.5×)

GENERAL LAFAYETTE / Bust of Lafayette Right / 1824

Dime: 1823

Quarter: 1818

British Penny: 1807

GENERAL LAFAYETTE / Bust of Lafayette Right / 1824 Rev: GEORGE WASHINGTON / Bust of Washington

Large Cent: 1816 (2), 1817 (2), 1818, 1819, 1820, 1822 (2), 1823 UK

Dime: 1820, 1821, 1822, 1823

Half Dollar: 1810, 1824

One Real: 1807

Two Reales: 1824



Large Cent

An exceptionally nice Large Cent, which is atypical of the known specimens



Half Dollar

A nice countermarked Half Dollar, which again is atypical of specimens.

References:

- Baker, William S. 1885. *Medallic Portraits of Washington*. Philadelphia.
- Bowers, Q. David. 1999. "New Notes on Washington-Lafayette Counterstamp," *Rare Coin Review* Nov: 75-77.
- . 2001. *Fifty Favorite Numismatic Pearls*. Wolfeboro.
- Duffield, Frank G. 1919. "A Trial List of the Countermarked Modern Coins of the World," *Numismatist* series 1919 to 1922. Reprinted in Brunk, 1976.
- Rulau, Russell. 2004. *Standard Catalog of United States Tokens*. Iola.

ANDREW JACKSON

The first American President from the West was Andrew Jackson. His claim to fame was defeating the British at the Battle of New Orleans in January of 1815. The battle actually occurred after the peace treaty that ended the War of 1812 had been signed, but news of the treaty had yet not reached the American or British troops. Both of these pieces are made from single letter punches, and are similar to many Hard Times Tokens in having political sentiments.

REX AND JACKASS / THE HERO OF NEW ORLEANS

Large Cent: UK

One of Jackson's political battles regarded the Second Bank of the United States, which was run by Nicholas Biddle. Four years before the Bank's charter would have

expired, Congress voted to recharter it. Jackson vetoed the bill in July of 1832, contending the Bank served the interests of the rich, whose goal was to take money from the common man. The Bank became an issue in the presidential campaign, with Jackson being supported by the Democrats, while Biddle and the Bank were supported by Henry Clay and the Whig Party.

Jackson won reelection and removed the government's money from the Bank, placing funds in dozens of private banks. Since the Bank of the United States no longer had as much money in its vaults it became more difficult to get loans. The result was a financial downturn, which was viewed by many as an example of the rich retaliating against the people whenever there was an attempt to constrain the evils of great wealth. That has been a recurrent theme in American politics and is reflected in a number of political countermarks. Just before the Bank's charter was to expire, Biddle exploited a loophole. It was rechartered as a Pennsylvania state bank and remained in business until 1841. This countermark appears to refer to the controversy as Jackson's nickname was Old Hickory.

OLD HICKORY / SPECIE WANTED

Large Cent: UK

A few *engraved* coins are presentation items from President Jackson to his political supporters. The reverse of an 1836 half dollar is engraved, "From Andrew Jackson Pres-ident of the U. States to" and on the obverse, "Andrew Jackson Ellis of New Haven, Conn. Feb. 22d, 1837." This Ellis was noted in the 1850 US Census as then a boy of fourteen.

Such personal information is now easy to trace as Census records are online. Ancestry.com will sell you full access to their immense archive for a moderate price, but much of the information can be obtained for free by searching the year of a census. In this case "1850 Census" and then click the Ancestry.com or another website option. The same can be done for other nations, and the material available at Library and Archives Canada is particularly useful.



Half Dollar (Enlarged 1.5×)

An even more spectacular piece is an 1836 Gobrecht silver dollar, which is engraved on the obverse "Andrew Jackson to Jno. W. McGrath Feby 22d 1836." A number of McGraths were listed in US Census records, and this person's identity is not certain.



Silver Dollar (Enlarged 1.25×)

The particularly interesting aspect of these pieces is they are dated February 22nd, but in successive years! Why were they issued? Jackson sometimes invited the public to party at the White House, and one of those events seems to have occurred on Feb. 22, 1837. It may be these two pieces were souvenirs of Jackson's annual hospitality, either sold to attendees or given away to people at random, who then specified how they should be engraved.

NATIONAL REFORM ASSOCIATION

The genesis of this organization was an 1841 meeting in New York City that was attended by members of the Locofocos, National Trades Union and Workingmen's Party. Its platform included free federal homesteads, exemption of farms from seizure for failure to pay debts, and "land limitation" to restrict the amount of land that could be owned by the wealthy.

Land Limitation

LAND / LIMITATION

Large Cent: 1844

Two Reales: 1787, 1812



Two Reales (Enlarged 1.5×)

Vote the Land Free

The best known American political countermark is “VOTE THE LAND FREE,” which illustrates the problems that are involved in identifying the issuer and reason for such countermarks. Ever since a short note appeared in the 1919 *Numismatist*, it was assumed the countermark was an Abolitionist issue of the Free Soil Party for the 1848 election.

The Free Soil Party explanation seemed reasonable and was accepted for a century, but it was quite wrong. Robert Merchant discovered the real source of the stamp when the text of an old book was put on the Internet. *The Third Biennial Report of the Board of Directors of the Kansas State Historical Society* (1883: 62) recorded a donation by Ellis Smalley of Council Grove. “Iron stamp containing the monogram of the Old National Reform Party, bearing the words ‘Vote the Land Free.’” He paid the Society to photograph the stamp for use in his article. The photos are now on the Internet and can be accessed using the Google “Images” option.



Kansas State Historical Society Collection

This is the only known example of a 19th century American political countermark punch. It is about 4 1/2 inches long and roughly the same diameter as a large cent. The end with the letters has been cut down slightly at its edges so the stamp would fit within the rims of a large cent. The other end of the stamp shows the effects of being hit many times with a large hammer as coins were countermarked.

Laurel Fritzsich of the Kansas Historical Society told the writer a few years ago that little was known about Smalley, except he had been a “blacksmith, political activist and former probate Judge near Council Grove, KS.” A few hours of Googling using the “Books” option revealed a great deal more information, but this was tricky because of “typos.” Google has digitally scanned millions of pages of books, directories, newspapers, etc. But one piece of crucial evidence regarding Smalley had been scanned incorrectly or his name was misspelled as having only one “l” in the original document. That resulted in a “typo” in the Internet text. These sorts of “typos” are common enough to be an annoyance! Only by persistence and chance did the crucial information finally appear.

The National Reform Association collaborated with the Fourierist movement and others to sponsor an annual National Industrial Congress. Ellis Smalley was a delegate from Plainfield, New Jersey, at the first Congress held in October of 1845 and was elected its secretary. *That explains why he ended-up with the VOTE THE LAND FREE stamp, and since he was a blacksmith, he might have made the stamp himself.* Among his duties, on May 16, 1844, Smalley and other members of the NRA signed a letter to Joseph Smith, leader of the Mormon Church, asking Smith's opinions concerning public lands. Smith replied from Nauvoo, Illinois, indicating he generally supported the NRA's goals, but the first goal of a virtuous people should to abolish slavery. By 1878 Smalley had moved to Kansas and was noted as a member of the City Council of Council Grove in a lawsuit. A few years later he is mentioned in the *Congressional Record* of the 46th Congress (1881) as having submitted a petition. "Ellis Smalley, of Council Grove, Kansas, that the public domain may be held and preserved exclusively for actual settlers. Referred to the Committee on the Public Lands."

VOTE THE LAND / FREE

Large Cent: 1812 (2), 1816, 1817 (2), 1818 (2), 1819, 1824, 1825, 1827, 1829 (2), 1833, 1834, 1835 (2), 1836 (3), 1837 (4), 1838 (3), 1839 (2), 1840 (2), 1841 (8), 1842 (5), 1843 (9), 1844 (3), UK (5)

Dime: 1840

Quarter: 1815, 1843

Two Reales: 1811, 1813, 1819, UK

English Halfpenny: 1826



Large Cent (Enlarged 1.5×)



Quarter (Enlarged 1.5×)

Two uncommonly nice examples of this countermark

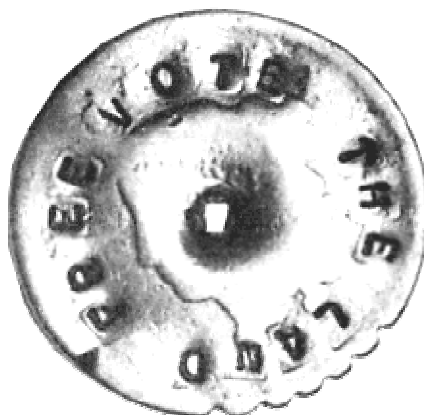
The genuine "VOTE THE LAND FREE" countermark is made from a prepared stamp. *There are two types of modern counterfeits, which are made from different sets of individual letter punches (see Brunk 2003: 339-43).* This implies there were two counterfeiters! It is not certain when the fakes were made, but some of them have been around for a long time, perhaps having been produced in the 1950s or earlier. The illustrated, well worn and holed large cent has a fake VOTE THE LAND FREE countermark. *It is made from the same set of individual letter stamps that were used*

to make the *Burma Country Club* and other fantasies that were noted in an earlier part of this series. By the early twentieth century, sets of letter stamps were being sold for a few dollars. Lots of people apparently had them, which made making fake countermarks from individual letter punches easy!

VOTE THE LAND FREE Modern Counterfeits

Large Cent: 1846, 1848

British Cartwheel Penny: 1797



Large Cent (Enlarged 1.5×)

Brunk, Gregory G. 2003. *Merchant and Privately Countermarked Coins: Advertising on the World's Smallest Billboards*. Rockford.

——— 2012. "More about the Vote the Land Free Countermark," *E-Sylum* online journal.

Duffield, Frank G. 1919. "A Trial List of the Countermarked Modern Coins of the World," *Numismatist* series 1919 to 1922.

Merchant, Robert J. 2009. "Vote the Land Free: A Recent Discovery Solves the Mystery," *TAMS Journal* 49: 6-9.



Letter to the Editor

Alan Ogden writes:

On reading my latest edition of the Bulletin [Vol. 48 Nos. 5/6, May/June 2013] I see that on p.79 you say that Bram Stoker was English. He was in fact Irish. I do enjoy your publication, keep up the good work.

Alan Ogden (Chairman, Birmingham UK Numismatic Soc.)

Response from Robert Ronus:

Mr. Ogden is indeed correct in pointing out that Bram Stoker was an Irishman. I apologise for this typically English insensitivity towards the other inhabitants of the British Isles. In partial defence I would point out that, although he was born in Ireland and lived the first 31 years of his life there, he lived the next 33 years of his life in England and died and was buried in London.

Yours sincerely, Robert Ronus

NI

Angilberga, Holy Roman Empress
Herman Blanton, NI #LM115



Angilberga is named on the illustrated coin along with her husband Louis (II) Holy Roman Emperor. Angilberga is the only empress named on a Carolingian coin [Grierson, *Coins of Medieval Europe*: 45]. This specimen issued under the authority of Adelchis, prince of Benevento, around 870-71. Denaro, silver, 0.98g: +LVDOVVICVS INP, cross on steps, +ANGILBERGA NP, cross with X. [Image courtesy Numismatica Varesi, Auction 62, 30 April 2013, Lot number: 342.]

Angilberga was active in Italian and Carolingian politics, even after her husband died. A good example of her power and influence can be inferred by reading a letter from Pope John VIII to Angilberga written around 874-75 asking that Angilberga send escorts to take him safely away from agents of Charles the Bald (who would succeed her husband as Holy Roman Emperor).

To Empress Angilberga

Your shrewdness, dearest daughter, is not unaware surely how our lord son the always august most unconquered emperor urged us that over the contempt of blessed Peter prince of apostles in the messengers not received but surrounded by Charles with his treatise in hand we would take care to find what might be suitable to be done, lest he destroy the new one, because he did not fear to invent a new kind of tyrant.

Again. Whoever comes as messenger from Charles, the church would not be opened, nor communion provided, nor the kiss offered, nor any seat prepared according to custom, nor yet the Ave said to him according to apostolic rules. He would still be received by us and heard and, if he brought a letter he would be admitted, but he would be given the writing containing the admonishments to him and rebukes. Your two messengers will first indeed take us from here honorably out of reverence for blessed Peter according to the ancient custom and thence accompanying us to distant places make our journey easy and suitable and keep us safe from the ambushes of the evil.

Citation from the website *Epistolæ: Medieval Women's Letters*, Columbia Center for New Media Teaching and Learning, Columbia University. Accessed 17-June-2013.
<http://epistolae.ccnmtl.columbia.edu/letter/1020.html>

NI

Book News and Reviews

***GREEK, SEMITIC, ASIATIC COINS and how to read them* by Richard J. Plant: a 2013 Revised & Augmented Edition (Maximus Publications, England, 322 pp., 8-1/4" x 11-3/4", soft covers).**

It may surprise you but one of the world's most knowledgeable numismatists is an elderly Methodist clergyman living in the old Yorkshire town of Doncaster in the north of England. Richard Plant's books include *Greek coin types and their identification*, perhaps the best general introduction to Greek coinage. His numerous articles, mainly in the British magazine *Coin News* but also including some in the *NI Bulletin*, cover an extraordinarily wide range of numismatics.

After his National Service in the Royal Artillery, when he served in Egypt and Libya, Richard Plant went to Oxford where he read 'Greats,' the rigorous traditional degree course in Latin, Greek, Ancient History and Philosophy. He then moved to Cambridge to study Theology (including Hebrew) and became a minister in the Methodist Church. Combining this academic training with an interest in coins, Richard was well qualified to produce his many books and articles on Roman and Greek coins, as well as his book *A Numismatic Journey through the Bible*. However, his great intellectual curiosity and interest in languages has taken him well beyond what he studied at Oxford and Cambridge.

Richard Plant's first book was *Arabic Coins and how to read them* which was published by Seaby in 1973 and awarded the Royal Numismatic Society's Lhotka Memorial Prize. It is still the best general help for Western numismatists trying to make sense of Arabic coins. He then extended his work to cover other non-Western alphabets. However, he could not find a publisher, primarily because nobody wanted to deal with many "funny scripts." Finally, in 1976 a small American publisher, Scorpion Press, agreed to publish the first edition of *Greek, Semitic, Asiatic Coins and how to read them*, although the book only came out in 1979. The two partners owning Scorpion separated soon afterwards and the book has long been out of print. Apparently there were discussions with another possible publisher in 2001 which came to an end when the manuscript was destroyed in the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center.

Now a friend of Richard's, Allan Wallace, has published this revised and expanded edition under the imprint Maximus Publications. It is the first book he has ever published! It is not the most sophisticated presentation, with copies of pages from the first edition in one font and new additions in different fonts. But this does not in any way hinder one from reading the extraordinary range of information presented.

The book covers the alphabets, inscriptions and designs of the coinages of Greece, Armenia, Georgia, Russia, the Sabaeans of South Arabia, Ethiopia, the early Hebrews, the Phoenicians, the Celtic Iberians of early Spain, the Persian Empire (including Aramaic, Nabataean and Pahlavi as well as early Farsi), the Arabs, a whole variety of Indians, Nepal, Tibet, Burma. Thailand, the Mongolians (especially the coinage the Manchu emperors struck in China), the Chinese, Korea, Annam (Vietnam) and Japan. This must reflect countless years of research.

The book contains no photographs. Instead you have 1193 of Richard Plant's detailed line drawings which are much more helpful if you are trying to decipher the wording

on a coin in a totally unfamiliar alphabet. A few sample pages below give a flavor of the book.

The dates are written out in words, and on the coins they are in their Feminine and Genitive forms to agree with **سنة** SaNaT "year", which is a key word in the formula. The numbers are written as:

one	احد	IHDA	thirty	ثلاثين	TheLaThIN
two	اثنين	IThNaTaIN	forty	اربعين	ARBa'IN
three	ثلاثة	TheLaTh	fifty	خمسين	KhaMSIN
four	اربع	ARBa'	sixty	ستين	SiTTIN
five	خمس	KhaMS	seventy	سبعين	SeB'IN
six	سد	SiTT	eighty	ثمانين	TheMANIN
seven	سبع	SeB'	ninety	تسعين	TiS'IN
eight	ثمان	TheMAN	100	مائة or مئة	Mi'aT (contain- ing Hamza)
nine	تسع	TiS'	200	مئتين	Mi'aTaIN
ten	عشر	'aShR	300	ثلاث مئة	TheLaTh Mi'aT
eleven	احد عشر	IHDA 'aShRaT	400	اربع مئة	ARBa' Mi'aT
twelve	اثني عشر	IThNaTaI 'aShRaT	500	خمس مئة	KhaMS Mi'aT
twenty	عشرين	'iShRIN			
twenty-one	احد وعشرين	IHDA Wa 'iShRIN			

Note the difference between **سبع** (SeB' "seven"; and **تسع** (TiS' "nine".

Numbers are joined together, from the smallest upwards, linked by 9 Wa "and" - thus 121 is **احد وعشرين و مئة** IHDA Wa 'iShRIN Wa Mi'aT.



Fig. 387

Fig. 387 is a gold dinar, and it gives a date but no mint. Very often there is no mint on the gold; and this means that it was issued from the capital - Damascus for the Omayyids, and Baghdad for the Abbasids. This coin is Omayyid, a fact which can be recognised from the wording of the legend in the field of the Reverse, "Allah is One. Allah is the Eternal. He begets not, neither is He begotten", which is known as "The Omayyid Formula". It was no longer used after 750 A.D. when the Abbasids came to power, except in Spain where an Omayyid dynasty still ruled.

The Obverse field has what is known as the "Kalima", the Moslem statement of faith - "There is no god but Allah. He is alone. He has no partner". This Kalima was later changed to, "There is no god but Allah. Mohammed is the prophet of Allah".

The date is given round the margin of the Reverse in a formula called the "Bismillah" from its first word **بسم الله** BiSMILLaH, which means "in the name of Allah". When there is a mint this is also in the Bismillah, which it is therefore important for the numismatist to be able to recognise - it does not always come on the Reverse, so one must be prepared to look for it. On Fig. 387 the Bismillah starts at the top, reading round anti-clockwise, with the date coming between 9 o'clock and 12 o'clock. It reads:

بسم الله ص ١٢٠ هـ ١٢٠

BiSMILLaH ZuRiBa HaZA ED-DINaR SaNaT ARBa' Wa TiS'IN



Fig. 745

This Obverse is an undated mohar of Lakshminara Simha, and it reads श्री लक्ष्मी ShRI LaKShMI

न रासि NaRa SIM

below which is a conch shell.



Fig. 746

Fig. 746 is a mohar of Pratapa Malla. The Reverse has श्री ShRI at the top where the Bhatgaon coin had the sword. The Obverse reads



Fig. 747

श्री प्रताप ShRI PRaTA-
मल्ल Pa MaLLa
७५९ 761

Fig. 747 is a quarter mohar of Rupamiti Devi, reading श्री रुपमिती ShRI RUPaMITI round the trident of Shiva. One is struck by the number of queens in Nepal in whose names coins are minted.



Fig. 748

Fig. 748 (compare Fig. 744) is a mohar of Chakravartindra, dated at the bottom of the Reverse ७८९ 789. It reads, starting from the top of the Obverse working downwards, then across to the Reverse (the bottom of the Obverse is left-right-centre) श्री २ जय चक्रवर्त्यमल्लदेव ShRI 2 JaYa ChakRaVaRTINDRa MaLLa DEVa. The ShRI 2 is laziness! A recent Gurkha coin describes the king as ShRI 5 - this is to save writing ShRI out five times. Is ShRI 5 much more "exalted" than ShRI 4? Actually this coin type of Chakravartindra was considered very unlucky, so it is surprising that Ranajita copied it.



Fig. 749

Fig. 749 was copied from the Moghul coins of the time, and thus the thick "Persian" dividing lines. It reads in a similar way from the top of the Obverse downwards, then across to the Reverse. श्री श्री जय पार्थिवेन्द्रमल्लदेव ShRI ShRI JaYa PARThIVENDRa MaLLa DEVa with the date ८०० 800 at the bottom. Above the ८०० LL are two crossed chamaras.



Fig. 750

This is a quarter mohar of Prakash Malla. The Obverse, round the

The legend reading from right to left, 五 WU "five", and 銖 CHU "a coin" which is used as a denomination, "Five Chus", the letters being in seal script

One has to beware of later copies of these early pieces; which were often produced not so much to deceive, as out of respect for their ancestors



Fig. 850



Fig. 851

When the usurper Wang Mang (王 WANG means "King"), 9-23 A.D., came to power, he did not like the word 銖 CHU, the first part of which is part of the name HAN, the name of the Dynasty from whom he had usurped his throne; so he replaced the Wu-Chu with the Huo-Chuan - Fig. 850. This reads 泉 CH'UAN "coin", and 貨 HUO "Exchange", both in seal script. This was very clever, because Wang Mang was born at a village in Honan called 白水 PAI SHUI "White water", and the character 泉 CHUAN in normal writing is 泉, which is made up from the two characters 白 PAI (Basic No. 106) and 水 SHUI (Basic No. 85).

Fig. 851 is another, larger, coin minted by Wang Mang, also containing his special 泉. It reads 大泉五十 T'AI CH'UAN WU SHIH "Large coin five tens", i.e., with a value of 50, written in seal script.

The normal later style of the Chinese cash really began with the T'ang Dynasty in 618 A.D.

Vocabulary of the commoner Chinese characters used in the Reign Names.

安	AN	rest, quiet	景	CHING	scenery, circumstances
正	CHENG	official, administration	立	CHING	calm
正	CHENG	true	周	CHOU	name of a dynasty
平	CHENG	peace	中	CHUNG	hit the mark, moderate
建	CHIEN	build, erect, strong	重	CHUNG	heavy
嘉	CHIA	good, excellent, increasing	朝	CH'AO	dynasty, court, sovereign
至	CHIH	extensive	白	CH'AO	bright, illustrious
至	CHIH	perfect	昌	CH'ANG	the light of the sun, splendid, prosperous
治	CHIH	healing, be cured	長	CH'ANG	long

Identifying old coins with legends in strange alphabets is never easy. The great attraction of Richard Plant's book is that it is a practical guide written for the collector or dealer, not an academic tome written for specialists. Richard is also quite frank about what he does not know. For example, in the chapter on Mongolian and Manchu, he shows three characters on a coin "written in Bachspa, a peculiar script said to have been invented by a Grand Lama called Bachspa in 1259 A.D., based on the Tibetan alphabet and used by the Mongol Khans on official documents for a few years—and also on just a few coins, such as this coin, and a few Chinese coins, such as Figs. 1030 and 1040. I have seen a copy of the letter shapes in a Russian book, which I show at the end of this chapter, but have not been able to work it out on the coins—perhaps a reader will be able to do better." Richard (whom I have never met but with whom I have corresponded) wears his learning lightly.

Richard Plant obviously enjoys sharing the knowledge he has accumulated and likes to be a teacher. As with many of his magazine articles, most chapters end with a little quiz, with the answers at the back.

The book is available for GBP 25 plus GBP 15 for air mail delivery to the United States from Maximus Publications, c/o Allan N. Wallace, 46, The Hollows, Bessacarr, Doncaster DN4 7PP, South Yorkshire, England or through Richard Plant (rplant56@talktalk.net). I think GBP 40 (\$62.20 at the current exchange rate) is very good value for all the information it contains. The book will be extraordinarily useful for dealers or collectors who handle many Asian coins. If it helps you turn an unidentified or partly identified coin into a coin with a proper description and history, surely the book will in due course pay for itself many times over.

Reviewed by Robert Ronus, NI#LM139

***Medallas de Proclama de Reyes de España en Antiguo Reyno de Goathemala: Usadas como monedas en Centroamérica* by J. Roberto Jovel.**

This Spanish-language version of *Proclamation Medals of the Spanish Kings used as Coins in Central America* will surely appear in the future in English as well, as have a number of Jovel's book-length numismatic writings. Slightly over 200 pages in length, including illustrations of the medals themselves, effigies of the Spanish Kings and graphs or documents crucial to an understanding of the text, its brevity belies a vast historical reach. Over two and a half centuries of colonial Central American history are covered, spanning the years from 1556 until 1812, when Spain's first Constitution appeared in Cádiz at the height of the Napoleonic Wars.

Jovel's effort focuses on two dynasties of Spanish monarchs, neither of which were strictly 'Spanish' in origin, which reigned over the vast Spanish Empire during the time frame covered. The Hapsburg dynasty, which is dealt with here from the time of Charles V's abdication to his son Phillip II in 1556, originated in Central Europe and the Low Countries. The succeeding Bourbons were a French dynasty. They came to power in 1700, and remain as titular heads of state in Spain until the present day. Each king is accorded his own chapter, along with a general introduction to the Spanish Colonial time frame and a final chapter covering the Constitution of 1812. Despite the complexities of the times involved, both Jovel's chronological approach, and the fact that every 'coin' issued to celebrate the coronation of each succeeding

monarch is described and illustrated, make it nearly impossible for the reader to lose his or her way.

The 'Royal Audience' of Guatemala, with its capital in old Guatemala City, Antigua, encompassed within its boundaries a territory which corresponds nearly exactly to that of the distinct countries which make up Central America today. New Spain, as Mexico was known during colonial times, and Colombia bordered these lands on the north and south respectively. Present-day Panama was part of Colombia until 1903; thus, what was known as Guatemala included the countries now known as Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Nicaragua. A portion of southern Mexico's state of Chiapas was originally included as well. Its largely rural areas, such as the region around San Cristobal which this reviewer has visited, even today 'feel' Central American to the casual tourist, retaining a strong indigenous element. Author Jovel points out that neither the Aztecs of the Central Valley of Mexico, nor the Spanish conquerors who followed them were able to subjugate this province on a permanent basis. Indeed, the Zapatista rebellion led by Subcomandante Marcos occurred within fairly recent memory in this same state of Chiapas.

Jovel refers to the proclamation medals described as 'coins' because they appeared in the same size and weight as the then current coins, often as pieces of two 'reales', about the size of an early Bust quarter from the United States. Indeed, many show evidence of having circulated, and their manner of distribution, as 'throws' which were tossed from a stage or a passing carriage during parades celebrating each new monarch's coronation, meant that they were gathered up by spectators in need of whatever money they could garner, to meet the simple needs of day-to-day existence. A perhaps bawdier and less sober version of this practice lives on during Mardi Gras parades in New Orleans to this day, although the modern-day, anodized aluminum 'throws', while still collectible, might well be considered less substantial in material and concept.

In addition, Jovel points out that the elements of time and distance were of crucial importance; coronation celebrations held in the New World were by necessity only possible after a delay of some months, as it took this long for news to travel the arduous sea route from Europe. Indeed, this was the only way the general populace could ever 'meet' the king, or even know what he looked like. Finally, Jovel emphasizes that large public gatherings held in Central America included a most diverse populace, as indigenous groups as well as those of African or mixed descent made up a large part of the audience during Proclamation ceremonies. As each region had its own traditions, customs, art, music, drama and foodstuffs, the festivities were by necessity imbued with local flavor as well. There were, of course, always the Spanish and Catholic authorities to be reckoned with. The resulting symbiosis, an alloy of sorts formed by the mixing of indigenous, African and Peninsular Spanish elements, is known as syncretism among anthropologists, and makes for fascinating reading today, as each event was chronicled by contemporary officials and their scribes, who took pains to extol the local color of the celebrations for posterity, while also required to show evidence of compliance with Spanish Colonial law and religious norms.

What Jovel has accomplished here is in some sense a natural continuation of the work done by earlier Spanish and Latin American authors. Great care has been taken to credit the pioneering efforts of 19th and early 20th century researchers such as

Herrera, Medina and Burzio. More recent efforts to catalogue these 'Procs', as they are called by collectors, such as the fine work of Frank Grove in his 1976 catalog of Spanish Proclamation medals in colonial Mexico are cited as well. While careful to give these renowned authors their due, Jovel is able to make a number of corrections to the works which came before him. These can range from clarifying the incorrect attribution of an active volcano in El Salvador which appears upon one piece, to assumptions earlier authors had made, at great geographical distance and without the benefit of modern communications, on boundaries which had shifted over time.

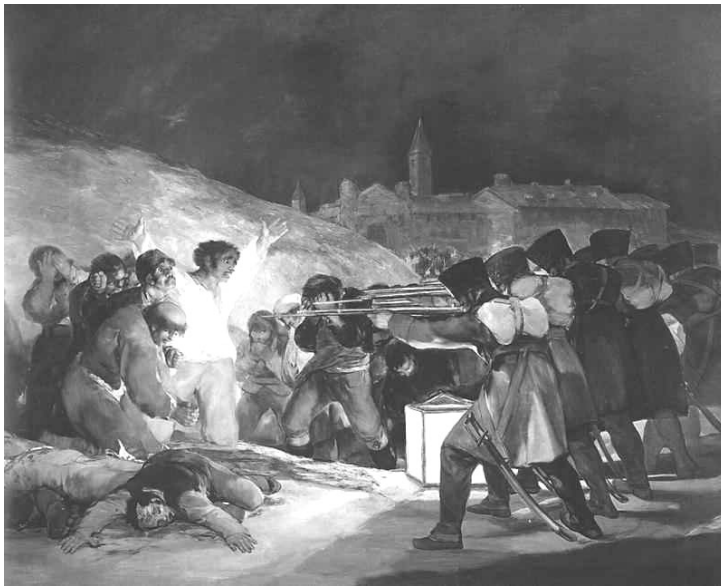
Jovel has managed to build upon their efforts by personally traveling to archives and libraries throughout Spain and Latin America. The author has also spent much of the last 15 years in close contact with today's foremost collectors of proclamation medals, whom he credits with having supplied many of the finest known and scarcest pieces used to illustrate this book.

Until the latter part of the 18th century, there was no Central American mint in operation, despite occasional references in contemporary accounts to coins being thrown to the cheering populace. This meant that local authorities had to look elsewhere to come up with entertainment worthy of celebrating the proclamation of a new monarch. Jovel describes one instance in which local indigenous groups reenacted their own subjugation at the hands of the Spanish conquistadors and their Tlaxcalan allies, including the capture of the indigenous 'cacique', or ruler. When the Spanish conquest had originally taken place during the eruption of one of Central America's many active volcanoes, as in the instance described, so much the better, theatrically. Pyrotechnics were organized which included building an artificial volcano, crowned by a vast bonfire with intermittent explosions, with a cast of hundreds of indigenous warriors unleashing arrows and hurling spears.

Modern sensibilities will admittedly tend to condemn such practices as unnecessarily gaudy, while glorifying colonialist imperialism in the sense that the vanquished celebrated their own demise. While allowing that this was true, we should perhaps recall that in wake of the conquest of the Plains Indians in the United States, touring circus groups such as Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show carried out very similar practices throughout cities on the Eastern Seaboard and in Europe. These also included the physical presence of Sitting Bull in reenactments of the Little Big Horn, and other events which can only be termed as calamitous for those 'celebrating' the destruction of their very social fabric. Let us not forget that this was near the turn of the twentieth century, and not in the Central America of the seventeenth century as described by Roberto Jovel.

In the case of Central America, the same indigenous warrior group which had aided Hernando Cortez in his conquest of the Aztecs around 1520, from Tlaxcala in the vicinity of Puebla in central Mexico, repeated their historical 'mission' by traveling hundreds of miles south, over a century and a half later. These reenacted battles, vanquishing the local Central American tribes, clearly possessed all the transcendence of a reenactment of Gettysburg today. Jovel adds that this particular tradition, known as the 'Fiesta del Volcán', was subsequently phased out due to the logistical difficulties involved in transporting large groups of warriors from Tlaxcala in central Mexico to the realm of the Mayan Quichés, near the volcano of Quetzaltenango in Guatemala. It is, however, just one in a long series of seemingly improbable historical events that led twentieth century scholars to state that the

history of Latin America has been one of never-ending marvels, culminating in the literary-artistic genre known as Magical Realism.



Jovel concludes with a chapter on the Spanish Constitution of Cádiz from 1812. The irony of the situation was that the uproar over Ferdinand VII's status as the prisoner of Napoleon constituted a tipping point on several fronts. In the Spanish Peninsula, a Spain which had always considered itself a loose federation of semi-autonomous regions, known internally as 'las Españas', left purposely in the plural, was united

behind their resistance to the French, with the capital city of Madrid taking on great symbolic importance for the first time. One glance at Goya's painting 'The 2nd of May' will suffice to show us the Spanish equivalent of Delacroix's famous 'Liberty Leading the People' from the French Revolution. Herein we see the execution of Spanish patriots in Madrid by the French occupation forces under Napoleon, a moment which crystallized Spanish resistance, unifying the nation, but setting off a chain of events which would eventually weaken its hold on its New World colonies.

In the colonies, Napoleon's capture of the newly crowned Spanish King, in May of 1808, at first caused declarations of loyalty throughout the Spanish colonies in Latin America, while simultaneously precipitating the very preparations for autonomy and self-government which were eventually to lead to independence. Through painstaking archival research, Jovel gives the reader a taste of the vehemence of the bonds of loyalty felt at first throughout the colonies towards the monarchy. Central Americans celebrated Ferdinand's crowning all the more as soon as it was threatened by Napoleon's attempt to annex the 'mother country', Spain, by putting his own brother, José Bonaparte, in charge. This war of independence from France would rage on for the next 5 years. Eventually the Spanish patriots, deprived of their rightful ruler, would go on to write their first Constitution, creating of Spain, at least provisionally, a Constitutional Monarchy.

When copies of this Constitution arrived in the New World, the news was received with even greater enthusiasm, since it was a further step in the direction towards an autonomy that had been quietly brewing for many years. And when Ferdinand finally regained his freedom, immediately abolishing this Constitution in an attempt to restore the absolute monarchy, the reaction was nearly unanimous throughout Latin America; the time had arrived to declare complete independence from Spain. The ensuing wars would drag on for some 12 years longer, on as many fronts as there are geographical regions in Mexico, Central and South America. But the separation from Spain was now complete, and after independence, the magnificent series of

Proclamation medals to the Spanish Kings came to an abrupt end throughout most of the Spanish-speaking world.

Interestingly, Roberto Jovel does not stress the ironies underlying the events leading to Spanish colonization of the New World and the gradual separation of these colonies from the '*madre patria*'. For initially, and officially, as we read in the archives the author cites, local governments outdid themselves competing to show the most loyalty to Spain, and celebrate the coronation of Ferdinand VII the most fervently, something we can see from the proclamation medals themselves. Never was the enthusiasm greater than in the very moments leading to greater autonomy, and ultimate independence! It is in this complete lack of hyperbole, by allowing readers to (inevitably) make these connections themselves, that Jovel's accurate historical approach of citing local authorities directly is most effective. In this case at least history speaks for itself, and it is precisely by not taking sides, judiciously avoiding polemics, that a numismatist can make a real contribution to history. Jovel allows the coins themselves, and the words uttered upon their release, to stand in contrast to eventual historical outcomes.

Two hundred some odd years after the first publication of a Spanish constitution, name calling would serve no one in any case. The depth of the ironies underlying the entire situation can be felt best through the declarations made by officials in the Audience of Guatemala in defense of the very monarchy they may not have been aware was on the verge of being overthrown. A reference is made in conjunction with the emission of proclamation medals honoring the new constitution itself, depicting the document as an open book. This 'open book metaphor' is described as a "sweet monument of liberality and justice for the observance of which every good Spaniard will be glad to shed the blood from his veins." The bloodshed began in earnest with Ferdinand VII's insistence upon clinging to the now outmoded model of the divine right of kings, although both the United States and France had already repudiated this model, the former with somewhat more success than the latter. For his refusal to be on the right side of history by accepting the role of constitutional monarch his people had chosen for him, Ferdinand has been called the king who forgot nothing, forgave nothing, and learned nothing.

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Numismatics International Meeting: Saturday, August 17 at 12:00pm in Room #44.
See inside for details